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Dave:

Glad to get your letter. No need to mention the few days; you must be much more efficient than I am. Besides, my wife works at the library at a local high school, so I'm well aware of what a hectic time this is. Please don't ever feel obligated -- takes all the fun out.

So you too have plunged into Case Closed. I'm glad to hear that the book didn't give Harold Weisberg a stroke. Posner does speak nicely of him in the acknowledgements but I would guess it won't wash with HW. If you have a chance, sometime, I'd love to read the letter. Specifically, I'm very interested in what Failure Analysis had to say. I had planned to try to get a copy of their report but everything has been on hold until recently. Lattimer had an article in JAMA last April that cited their work and showed Z pictures and how they interpret them (if you didn't see it, I can send you a copy). Their analysis of the Z film as described by Lattimer was just plain silly. (And that comes from someone who is willing to accept the possibility that one bullet struck both JFK and JC, though I cannot accept that possibility and that the bullet was E399.) Very interesting -- guess I'll have to find a way to get in touch with them.

So you're going to do a review of the book? Lordy, won't that be fun -- no doubt someone will be frothing at the mouth over each and every thing you say. I admire your courage.... As for any quotations, sure (and it does stroke the ego a bit, but don't feel obligated to quote me). I hope you got the "newsletter" by now; the "mini-review" is slightly different so feel free to use either.

What do you think of the idea of the newsletter? (Notice I'm diplomatic enough not to ask what you think of that newsletter; no response required). If you'd care to participate, please do. It won't be going out to many people but I'll be sure to mention the conference -- you never know.

I can appreciate the difficulty of your topic (entirely independent of our interests). It overwhelms me. It must be hard enough to deal with a topic where we know (or have strong evidence anyway) that the official story was not truthful (e.g., Gulf of Tonkin incident, Watergate, etc.) but how do you even approach: "well, the government says this is the way it happened but the majority doesn't believe it and there sure is a lot of ways to look at things"? At least in other "scandals", there is the satisfaction of saying "but now we know." Don't envy you a bit. My oldest is in high school but is taking Advanced Placement history so he uses a college text. However, if it would help, I'd be glad to poke around and find out what texts are being used here and copy anything you can use. Interesting topic. I almost bought Francis Fitzgerald's book (title escapes me now) that deals with the general topic. My motivation, however, was a bit tainted. I assume you read her book; quite a switch from Fire in the Lake. [FF turns up in an interesting twist to the Watergate saga. According to Secret Agenda, and it cites specific documents, at least part of CIA's involvement in the Ellsberg break-in was motivated by Ellsberg's relationship with Fitzgerald (they were living together). Many of the notations by CIA folks are about FF and what daddy may have told her. Although I deplore some of the wild charges and speculations that have been made about people getting bumped off, Desmond's death is one that definitely needs to be investigated -- he reported a "bee sting" just before he dropped dead on the tennis court. Weirdly enough, he is one of a couple of CIA honchos who died on the tennis court, though I can't imagine that's related to anything.] I think I've mentioned to you before that I grew up in California and never once was the internment of the Japanese mentioned in any of my text books. You've got a tough topic, but obviously important.

I look forward to HW's book though I confess I find him very hard to read. As for Livingstone, I think I'll wait until his book is out to make any additional comments. I don't want to sound like I'm reviewing JFK for Newsweek. Mentioning him reminds me -- do you know if Rowell is OK now? I know he was having back trouble and just wondered if he was out of action. Hope not.

Glad to hear that you and Clif correspond. And glad to hear Wecht at least takes the time to talk to people.

Sorry to run on. Please don't feel pressured to respond. I understand the pressures you're under right now (really). Besides, if you write back right away, I'll have to do something interesting enough to tell you about....

Good to hear from you. Hope all your work goes well. Take care.

Ja